



**National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science**

**MINUTES
December 2 and 3, 1985
Washington, D.C.**

- Members Present:** Patricia Barbour, Charles Benton ex officio, Daniel Carter, Daniel Casey, Lee Edwards, Wanda Forbes, Frank Gannon, John Juergensmeyer, Byron Leeds, Bessie Moore, Jerald Newman, Margaret Phelan, Barbara Taylor, William Welsh, Julia Wu, and Elinor M. Hashim, Presiding
- Former Members Present:** Paulette Holahan
- Staff Present:** Toni Carbo Bearman, Sarah G. Bishop, Dorothy P. Gray, Diane Yassenoff Rafferty, Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar, Vivian D. Terrell, Christina Carr Young, and Jane McDuffie, Recording Secretary
- Guests Present:** Caroline Arden, Catholic University of America; William G. Asp, Minnesota State Library; Jaia Barrett, Association of Research Libraries; Robert Chartrand, Library of Congress; Cheryl Crimando, BG&P Public Relations; Robert DeCandido, New York Public Library; Mary DeWeaver, The Allen Corporation; Don Egner, Department of Defense; Leanne Katz, National Coalition Against Censorship; Adele A. Lerner, Cornell Medical Center, New York; Beverly P. Lynch, American Library Association; Sandra Milevski, Library of Congress; Peyton Neal, PRN Associates; Patrick Pellerin, BG&P Public Relations; David Peyton, Information Industry Association

Monday, December 2, 1986

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Commissioners met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**CHAIRMAN'S
OPENING
REMARKS**

The guests and visitors were introduced by the Chairman and welcomed on behalf of the Members of the Commission.

Miss Hashim introduced two new Commissioners present, Frank Gannon and Barbara Taylor. All NCLIS Commissioners gave brief biographical information about themselves, and what their aspirations are personally and for the Commission.

Former Commissioner Receives Medallion -

Miss Hashim extended her thanks to former Commissioner Paulette Holahan and presented her with a NCLIS Medallion for distinguished federal service and contribution to the work of the Commission over the past five years.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

NCLIS Budget for FY 1986 - Miss Hashim reported that the Commission has been funded for FY 1986 at \$690,000.

Meetings - In September Chairman Hashim attended the 6th annual meeting of the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services Taskforce in Princeton. She also reported that the Executive Board of ASIS has gone on record as supporting the 1989 White House Conference.

**MINUTES
MOTION**

The Minutes of the Commission meeting held August 19 and 20, 1985 were approved as submitted.

**ROLE OF
FEES**

Diane Yassenoff Rafferty led a discussion on the role of fees. The American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) have offered to implement the recommendations in the report.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of holding a hearing on the fee issue during the ALA Conference. Concern was expressed about the time needed to prepare for a hearing and the fact that the program was already set.

MOTION

It was MOVED by Daniel Casey, seconded by Barbara Taylor, to direct the NCLIS staff to prepare a hearing on the subject of the fee issue along the lines of NCLIS' mission to collect data on the subject, and that the hearing be held at the ALA Conference in New York at the end of June. Amendment offered by Paulette Holahan that the hearing be prepared jointly by ALA, ARL and NCLIS. Amendment accepted by Casey. Vote for motion: Three in favor - Casey, Taylor, Barbour. Nine opposed - Moore, Wu, Carter, Gannon, Forbes, Welsh, Leeds, Phelan, and Newman. Motion denied.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Introduction of NCLIS staff members - Dr. Bearman introduced NCLIS staff members and explained each of their program areas.

Administrative Report - Barbara Whiteleather's resignation as Special Assistant was formally announced. Barbara was a member of the NCLIS staff for 15 years, and a government employee for 26 years. As part of a staff reorganization Marti Quigley and Jane Thomas will divide Barbara's duties.

OMB Circular - At the August Commission meeting NCLIS endorsed the comments to the OMB Circular that staff had prepared. These comments were transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget. Per Tim Sprehe of OMB, many of the Commission's comments have been incorporated in the revised circular. A decision on whether the circular will be issued again for comment in the Federal Register or be issued as the circular is pending.

Community Information and Referral (CI&R) Report - Dr. Bearman reported that the Public Library Association has taken on the recommendations stemming from the CI&R Task Force Report and is working very hard to implement and incorporate them.

Literacy Project - Dr. Bearman explained the Pittsburgh project request on literacy.

Christina Young addressed the Commission on the funding of the Pittsburgh project, stating that "sources of funding still need to be identified". Mrs. Young introduced Don Egner from the Department of Defense who explained the University of Utah's TRIAD program, another literacy program of DOD that has different objectives from those of the DOD-NCLIS program, but is complementary. Mr. Egner explained that he is optimistic that funding will be found for the Pittsburgh project.

Coalition for Literacy - Mrs. Young brought the Commission up to date on the recent efforts of the Coalition for Literacy's three-year ad campaign.

Finding Information Skills - In response to Mrs. Wu's inquiry about the availability of the Finding Information Skills paper, Mrs. Rafferty stated that the paper will be ready by the end of December and will be distributed to the informal group, which includes Mr. Benton, Dr. Bearman and Mrs. Rafferty, on information skills in advance of its meeting during ALA midwinter.

Library and Information Needs of Special Groups - Dr. Moore provided information on many facets of the library and information needs of special groups. She reported that associations across the United States are "finally responding to aging programs", and meetings on aging have been "very productive". She commended the State of Maryland for producing a training film for librarians on how to serve the aging program. She also explained Southwestern Bell's Silver Pages, a telephone directory of services for the elderly. Another exciting development is that -- Congress has allotted money through LSCA Title IV to Indians on reservations. The Indians were one of the first groups the Commission supported. Charles Benton added that the pre-White House Conference worked out a plan for a resolution which began Title IV of LSCA. It showed direct cause and effect of the Commission's efforts. Miss Hashim explained the inception of LSCA and how it relates to the Commission.

Legislative Branch Activities - Mr. Casey suggested that former Commissioners be called upon to work on these activities. Mrs. Reszetar responded that a plan will be developed to involve all Commissioners and, whenever possible, visits to the Hill to let Congress know what we are doing. Seminars are one means of familiarization with activities.

Rural Library and Information Services - In response to Mr. Benton's question regarding the Kellogg project, Dr. Bearman stated that an announcement by the Kellogg Foundation regarding the 8.4 million dollar grant request from the Inter-mountain Community Learning/Information Services project is expected at any moment.

The Role of Information in the Economy -

Dr. Bearman gave a brief report on the planning meeting hosted by Exxon Research she and Mr. Carter attended. The participants at the October planning meeting recommended that a conference be held in the Spring of 1986 on information in the economy. The one-day meeting accomplished more than anticipated by suggesting background papers, people to prepare them, an agenda for the Spring meeting and a list of suggested participants. It is probable that the Faxon Company will support the conference in '86 in cooperation with MIT, and will also look for additional private funding sources. The outcome of these meetings is to produce a good summary of different papers focussing on the information economy in the U.S., U.K. and Canada, and some other background materials that can come out as a single publication to be published, hopefully, by a private publisher.

NCLIS Information Center - Mr. Benton asked for report on inquiries about visiting the NCLIS Information Center and donating additional services and/or equipment to it. Dr. Bearman responded that most donations are from database producers. We are in the process of switching from our "old system" (Syntrex) to the "new system" (AT&T). She further explained, primarily to the new members, that the Information Center was "one of the real highlights" of FY 85. The total contributions, in time and kind, hardware, software, databases, publications, etc., exceeded the total budget of the Commission. The information center is designed to be a working information center for the Commission and also an exhibit for visitors. An external port has been installed which enables one to dial in to call the library book list, NCLIS vertical files and mailing list. As part of the information center, NCLIS put together an audio visual presentation. Copies of the presentation are being made for sale. It will also be available to show to new Commissioners in the near future either at the office or on a loan basis.

International Issues - Dr. Bearman stated that she and Dorothy Gray have been working closely with Mr. Salmon of the State Department on several different versions of proposals for programs that would have been funded by UNESCO if the U.S. were still a member. Because their ground rules continue to change, the target date for alternative funds to be dispersed to appropriate agencies has been extended.

2:30 p.m.

1986 MEETING
DATES

Miss Hashim proposed eliminating the February 6-7 Commission meeting and adding an extra day to the April meeting for program committee meetings. Miss Hashim reported on an invitation extended by FID to hold a September Commission meeting in Montreal, Canada. Because of budget constraints Miss Hashim declined the invitation.

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by Jerald Newman, seconded by Julia Wu that the February 6-7, 1986 Commission meeting be cancelled and an extra day, April 8, be added to the April meeting for Committee meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS
FOR FUTURE
MEETINGS

The Program Review Committee suggested the following topics for upcoming meetings: April - Access to Information; November - Information for Governance. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to extend invitations for the April meeting to Mrs. Barbara Bush to speak on literacy, and Congressman Claude Pepper on aging. Mr. Dan Lacy will be invited to speak on Access to Information at a future meeting.

PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Business Cards - Mr. Leeds, Committee Chair, presented a plan, showing samples, for redesigning NCLIS business cards. He also acknowledged and thanked Dorothy Gray for her work in securing designs and prices for the business cards.

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by Jerald Newman, seconded by Julia Wu and Barbara Taylor that the Commissioners' business cards be redesigned using a single gold eagle. Motion passed unanimously.

Letterhead - NCLIS letterhead designs submitted by GPO were not accepted by the Public Affairs Committee. The Committee will find an appropriate design and make a final decision.

Public Relations Firm - The Committee suggested the following topics and ways that a public relations firm could provide publicity for the Commission:

1. Focus on one or two ideas or themes per year, e.g., literacy, Department of Defense project, aging, etc., rather than many different subjects.
2. Develop a politically-important constituency tied into a public relations effort such as aging, minorities, etc. Incorporate the constituency into the Commission's mass mailing list
3. Celebrate NCLIS' 15th anniversary by inviting Barbara Bush and Lady Bird Johnson (Bill to establish the Commission came from the Johnson Administration and signed by the Nixon administration - would show good bipartisanship by the Commission.)
4. Mr. Leeds, suggesting that "the U.S. population, as well as Congress, need to know we exist" brings forth the suggestion from the Committee that Senators and Congressmen be provided with a selected list of NCLIS accomplishments over the past 15 years and offer to make these available to any constituent who requests information.
5. Contact C-Span (Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network) for information on their rules for suitable program subjects (how they select topics and groups, cost, what to do to prepare to go on program, etc.). Mr. Casey explained that C-Span is a satellite network that covers hearings of various types, House of Representatives, and any number popular public affairs programs.

BG&P Public Relations Firm, which is covering this Commission meeting, has been hired on short term basis.

Commission Members concede that there is a lack of information throughout the library community about what the Commission is doing. Miss Hashim

expressed concern that press releases are not reaching enough or the right people.

Mr. Casey suggested that:

- (a) NCLIS Members contact Washington correspondents to find out the names of their local, hometown daily newspapers.
- (b) Washington correspondents be included on the NCLIS mailing list to assure that every current release goes directly to the Washington correspondents as well as hometown paper.
- (c) Distribute NCLIS publications and news stories to Congressional Committee Chairmen in the House and Senate with whom we deal (Appropriations, Education, Health and Human Service).

AD HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Wanda Forbes, Chair, Ad Hoc Bicentennial Committee, reported that she, Mary Alice Reszetar and Eileen Cooke, met with several members of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution Committee. The Bicentennial Committee and NCLIS agreed that libraries are logical starting places for the goals that are being set for the celebration 1987-89. In response to Mr. Leed's question, "What are we doing for them?" (Bicentennial Committee), Mrs. Reszetar responded that NCLIS is serving as a catalyst to ensure that libraries are included in the celebration of the Bicentennial.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3, 1986

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jerald Newman, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee reported on the Committee's meeting.

The budget projection for FY '86 shows a deficit of \$26,000. As a result of the

Committee's recommendations, the following motions were made and approved:

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by the Budget and Finance Committee that Commissioners-designate be paid travel expenses only and not the equivalent of salary when on Commission business. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by the Budget and Finance Committee that travel for former Commissioners and the equivalent of salary not be paid when a Commissioner designate for that seat has been nominated. Motion carried with Bessie Moore abstaining.

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by the Budget and Finance Committee that committee meetings be held only during the time of regular Commission meetings, except when the Chairman of the Commission determines otherwise. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by the Budget and Finance Committee that only one Commissioner be paid travel and salary to attend each of those library and information association conferences at which the Commission is represented. Motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Director and Deputy Director are working toward reducing the NCLIS rent by decreasing office space. If reduction in space does not show a sufficient decrease in rent, an office move will be considered.

Other recommendations for cutting costs are as follows:

1. Commission Members secure contributions for the Commission.
2. Hold mail for group mailing at Commission headquarters and/or hold until Commission meetings.

**WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE
PRELIMINARY
DESIGN GROUP**

Mr. William G. Asp, Chair, White House Conference Preliminary Design Group (WHCPDG) and Director, Minnesota Office of Library Development and Services, outlined the final report from the Preliminary Design Group.

Mr. Asp thanked Miss Hashim for "providing an absolutely outstanding design group to work with", publicly recognized Mary Alice Reszetar for her providing material, setting up the meetings and preparing the minutes, Sandra Milevski for conducting research, and his Secretary, Ruth Miller for all her secretarial work and contributions.

Mr. Asp covered the following comments from some of the major sections and recommendations of the report:

1. Important that the White House Conference should be seen as a process, not an event.
2. A major taskforce concern and recommendation is that the entire process be viewed as a way of developing action plans for library and information services.
3. Focus efforts on ways to address needs.
4. Three recommended themes, which are all major national issues, are library and information services in support of:
 - (a) productivity
 - (b) literacy
 - (c) democracy
5. Staffing and financing options were outlined briefly, but carefully. There is a need for a core group of staff to work on the conference full-time, persons detailed to conference from national library and information services organizations or libraries, as well as volunteers. Options for financing were identified as:
 - (a) federal
 - (b) mix coming from public and private sources
 - (c) private
6. Next steps to be taken to implement a White House Conference:
 - (a) report should be distributed as widely as possible as soon as possible

- (b) NCLIS schedule a press conference during the ALA Mid Winter Conference.
- (c) Feedback from NCLIS Commissioners

The report generated a lively and lengthy discussion centering on "where do we go from here"?

Mr. Edwards, after noting that most of the key supporters of the '89 conference, and those who introduced resolutions calling for a 1989 White House Conference (p. 4), listed in the report are Democrats suggested that, before the White House is asked to support the 1989 Conference, Republican congressional supporters also need to be identified and listed. The NCLIS staff liaison to the White House Conference will contact Barbara Cooper, Chair of the 1979 White House Conference on Information Service Taskforce Committee to obtain a list of additional co-sponsors of both parties. A concerted effort will be made by all Commission Members to gain Congressional and White House support for the Conference.

Many points and suggestions stemmed from the discussion. Among those:

- . Mr. Casey thinks that a part of the report needs to be clarified (p 15), 'While the Conference is held under the auspices of NCLIS, the Advisory Committee has responsibility for planning and conducting the Conference' - and asked:
 - (a) If legislation states that this responsibility was laid to the National Commission?
 - (b) Is the policy in regard to the conference going to be determined by the Commission or by the Advisory Group?
 - (c) Should it say that the Advisory Group can recommend policy to the Commission and the Commission in turn will establish the policy of this White House Conference?, or should it be modified to say that the Advisory Committee will recommend policy to the Commission?

Mrs. Reszetar read from legislation "that the conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science", and also reminded Mr. Casey that there will be hearings which will ultimately establish who will have the responsibility.

Mr. Casey thinks it should be made clear that this Commission makes the policy for the governance of the White House Conference.

Mr. Asp, responding to Mr. Casey, remarked that the Commission is going to have to discuss these issues and testify on pending legislation to establish the way the Commission thinks it should be established. The White House Conference Preliminary Design Group believes strongly that the best course of action to follow is to have the White House Advisory Committee as the policy making body for the Conference and as the group that would deal with the details of planning the Conference, rather than the Commission.

Sandra Milevski of the Congressional Research Service stated that after researching previous White House Conferences she has learned that the organization of the White House Conference is critical. White House conferences are often Presidential "shows" with the President selecting an Advisory Committee who in turn selects a Chairman. The Chairman is responsible for selecting an executive director. A support agency should provide some start off money, office space and secretarial help. In Ms. Milevski's opinion, "to ask the Commission to work on the conference would be impossible".

Mr. Benton, citing experience from the 1979 White House Conference, declared that it takes a great deal of time to start the ball rolling, and stressed that a clean line of responsibility right now is very important.

Mr. Welsh reiterated Ms. Milevski's concern that "the Commission does not have

the time or resources to conduct this Conference".

- . It was pointed out that the Chair of the Commission is automatically Vice Chair of the White House Conference and Advisory Group.
- . Mrs. Reszetar asked the Commissioners' assistance in finding a high level contact person from the White House to act as liaison for the Conference.
- . Miss Hashim appointed Mrs. Reszetar and Messrs. Asp and Gannon to serve on a committee, which will write an executive summary as a preface to the WHCPDG Report.

RESOLUTION

By unanimous agreement, the Members adopted the following resolution accepting the report of the White House Conference Preliminary Design Group. The resolution was introduced by William Welsh, seconded by Daniel Carter, Wanda Forbes and Julia Wu:

Be it resolved that,

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science accept the report of the White House Conference Preliminary Design Group and commend the members of this group on their thorough and dedicated work.

The Commission will distribute this report and bring it to the attention of the library and information community for review and comment. The report and comments received will be presented to the 30 members of the White House Conference Advisory Committee when it is named.

The Commission hereby dismisses the White House Conference Preliminary Design Group with our sincere thanks.

Miss Hashim asked that it be duly noted in the Commission minutes that the Members of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science appreciate the superb leadership of Bill Asp as Chairman of the White House Conference Preliminary Design Group.

MOTION

Following a round of compliments and applause for the excellence and thoroughness of the report, the Commission presented Mr. Asp with the following resolution recognizing his leadership and work. Daniel Carter introduced the motion, seconded by Margaret Phelan. Motion carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, the final report to the Commission from the White House Conference Preliminary Design Group is one of the finest pieces of work that has resulted from any Commission activity;

WHEREAS, the final report is truly inspiring and will surely receive national acclaim;

WHEREAS, the Commission, by accepting the report, has taken a stand on the issues and the White House Conference process presented in the report;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission recognize Bill Asp's leadership as Chairman of the White House Conference Preliminary Design Group and give him highest praise for his work, in which the Commission takes great pride.

1:45 p.m.

**PRESENTATION OF
COMMISSION DOCUMENTS**

Miss Hashim presented official commission documents from the White House to Mr. Gannon, Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Edwards.

**CENSORSHIP
STUDY**

Mrs. Young presented an overview of the draft report of the Censorship study. The final draft was sent to the Censorship Committee panelists, members of NCLIS staff, and NCLIS Chairman.

Dr. Bearman commented on the draft, stating that:

- . The study was limited to the use of available data;
- . The report is the first draft of a report to NCLIS and will be revised based on Commissioner's comments. Distributed in packets is a summary

of the comments received from the panelists and staff. These comments are not incorporated in the draft;

- . Staff are concerned about labels used in the study that are confusing and need to be corrected and/or changed;

Mrs. Young introduced Dr. Mary DeWeaver, who submitted the draft on behalf of the Allen Corporation. Dr. DeWeaver gave a slide presentation on the report, which presented the list of panelists and entailed the extent of censorship, society's response, trends from 1974-85.

The method of study was composed of summarizing existing data, reviewing the literature, some interviews and a synthesis of existing data.

Findings of the study are:

1. Complainants are parents and organized groups.
2. Complaints were wide ranging.
3. Types of libraries named in complaints - secondary, elementary schools and public libraries
4. Types of actions - attacks.
5. Outcomes - usually retention of the material.

Censorship trends:

1. Wide spread and increasing
2. Many view points
3. More press attention
4. Broad challenge
5. No majority support
6. Libraries are responding
7. Impact on publishing, purchasing and circulation
8. legal decisions are increasing

There was considerable discussion about the draft report submitted by Dr. DeWeaver.

Among the comments from Commissioners were:

1. Concerned with the definition and/or use of the word "censorship" in the study.

2. Parents were not represented in the survey because of sources of data used.
3. Association of School Librarians was not surveyed, but their comments have appeared in school publications and journals.
4. There seemed to be a lack of data for this study.
5. The draft is a report that has sampled data collected by anti-censorship organizations. Written material also seems to support anti-censorship philosophy, and policies and cannot represent a cross section of society.
6. There is a basic flaw in the study, i.e. the definition of censorship.
7. Since many words and definitions used in the study may have different connotations for different people, attention should be paid to choice of words when study is revised.
8. The study shows that there was not any rise in censorship (actual removal of material) between 1974 and 1985 (years study covered).
9. The information received seemed to be essentially from a one-sided, biased group.
10. Inquiry and expression of concern (about books) should not be considered in censorship statistics.
11. It was noted that only 100 censorship cases were cited out of approximately 20 million books in 65,000 libraries.

In order to produce a reliable, unbiased report on censorship:

It was **AGREED** by consensus that the censorship study be revised, incorporating data from additional sources and expanding the bibliography, and that a statistician be hired, to evaluate the statistics in the censorship report.

RESOLUTION

A resolution honoring Barbara Whiteleather, former Special Assistant with the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, introduced by Julia Wu and seconded by Daniel Carter, was passed unanimously. The motion reads:

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science applauds the dedicated service of Barbara Lee Whiteleather and presents her with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Barbara Lee Whiteleather has served the Commission for 13 years as its Secretary as well as Special Assistant to the Executive Director;

WHEREAS, that service has always been excellent and frequently outstanding;

WHEREAS, Barbara is one of the world's most pleasant and cheerful people and a young and beautiful mother and grandmother;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science applaud the dedicated service to the Commission of Barbara Lee Whiteleather and that the Members of the Commission wish Barbara much happiness in her new-found freedom as a young retiree.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.